



**Press Release  
For Immediate Release**

## **Place de la Francophonie 2010 on Granville Island The grand francophone festival will keep Vancouver warm during the Winter Games!**

**Montréal, September 24, 2009 – During the VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, visitors from around the world can expect a constant barrage of entertainment and shows in French.**

Great enthusiasm and excitement coupled with the presence of numerous personalities marked the unveiling, today, of the names on the first roster of artistes who will feature on the scheduled program at the Place de la Francophonie 2010, one of the Francophone cultural events being held during the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games.

Place de la Francophonie 2010 is this little French Quarter that will be recreated on Granville Island right in heart of downtown Vancouver during the Games where one will get to taste the artistic and cultural richness of Francophonie in Canada, live the Olympic Games experience in French and where the festive ambiance will make it a joy to mingle.

On stage, established stars will mix with the best of emerging artistes. Weird and wonderful creatures will parade the streets. From theatre to humour, wonderful performances will unfold for the enjoyment of one and all. With its farmer's market and tourism themed exhibition, the public will also get to discover the most beautiful tourist circuits and trails and sample a plethora of local and traditional products.

This first roster of artistes announced provides an advance preview of the programming to come which promises to celebrate excellence and diversity.

### **Mes Aïeux**

The group catapulted to the top with their song *dégénération* does not hesitate to take the listener on a journey where anything goes, even a flight towards distant galaxies... What is certain is, we are likely to encounter that sweet madness, that colourful world and that sense of celebration that have since their debut, cemented the solid on-stage reputation of the group. Thanks to their concoction of songs spiced up with various influences and a fusion of the most diverse of musical ingredients, Mes Aïeux will invariably put on a show not to be missed!

[www.placefranco2010.ca](http://www.placefranco2010.ca)

### **The Porn Flakes**

The Porn Flakes, a Quebec phenomenon of the new millennium comparable to the '80s Monday evening live show, "Les Lundis des Ha! Ha!" of the great era of "Ding et Dong", have quickly become essentials on the music scene. In almost 10 years of performing, their shows have become real happening events where guest stars turn up to sing, but mostly to have fun and "jam". They will be joined by great stars!

### **Cowboys Fringants**

The communion between fans of the Cowboys Fringants and the musicians is evident at every show and the pleasure they derive in reconnecting with each other remains intact each time. People of all generations are attracted to their mosaic of country and folk genres which only confirms that their music touches a sensitive chord. To date, the Cowboys Fringants have sold over 800,000 albums in Francophone markets and their songs provide the "decor" for and form the backdrop to the lives of thousands of people.

### **Damien Robitaille**

Some artistes must subject themselves to a long apprenticeship before finding their musical personality. Others seem to possess an innate gift that sets them apart from their peers the moment they open their mouth or pick up an instrument. Damien Robitaille, a native of Ontario belongs to the latter category. A whole in perfect unison with the boyish voice, his strange sense of rhythm, his acquired "crooner" qualities, his love of kitsch because kitsch spreads happiness, his sometimes stunningly-penned lyrics, his curious charm... Impossible not to be turned on!

### **Ariane Moffatt**

With jazz in her blood, folk at heart and electro in the "gills", Ariane Moffatt makes us delve into the core of her inner world. In this deep ocean, where the imagination has its reasons, she mixes words and sounds, corals and fish, to make beautiful songs. A major talent who is decidedly daring, musically, and always manages to frankly surprise us, while appearing profoundly true to herself, just as we like her.

### **Grégory Charles**

To write that he is an exceptional person is probably a huge understatement. Grégory Charles is a musician, dancer, singer, radio and TV host, actor and lover of backgammon. One might sum him up rather as an artiste-workaholic if it became necessary to try to define the profile of this man who was certainly born with the intention of standing out even as life itself left him no other choice. He is also the writer-composer-performer of the theme song of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games and will be present with his choral group at the Place de la Francophonie during the opening show.

### **Pierre Lapointe**

Pierre Lapointe is the untiring, gifted Québécois singer-songwriter! An unequivocal demonstration of the best that Canadian-Québécois pop has to offer. Captivatingly hypnotic... he will bring a welcome touch of poetry to the festivities!

### **Family-Friendly Programming**

Place de la Francophonie 2010 is also for the little ones! A family-friendly program is being planned to provide an opportunity for Francophone children from Vancouver, British Columbia and elsewhere to experience the excitement of the Games in French! Youth theatre performances, entertainment, clowns and other burlesque performers and shows will be on the schedule!

### **Street Entertainment**

For eighteen days, Place de la Francophonie on Granville Island will be the site for the biggest Latin festival in the country. Of course, "Latin festival" is just another way of describing street entertainment. So go on, dream of the tallest, the funniest and the most touching of stilt walkers, creatures and mimes and meet us at the PF2010!

**During the Vancouver Winter Games, join in the non-stop celebration at the Place de la Francophonie 2010 !**

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